

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000579/26
to the Commission
Aldo Patriciello (PFE)
(11 February 2026)**

Subject: Excessive bureaucratic complexity of EU procedures

In recent years, citizens, businesses and local entities have repeatedly pointed to the excessive bureaucratic complexity of EU procedures, characterised by layers of legislation, redundant administrative requirements and implementation timeframes that are often incompatible with the economic and social needs of these areas.

In particular, access to EU funds and the implementation of EU programmes end up weighed down by administrative burdens that are disproportionate to the size of beneficiaries, significantly penalising small and medium-sized enterprises, smaller municipalities and entities with limited administrative capacity.

This situation risks undermining the effectiveness of EU policies, limiting their impact on the ground and fostering a perception of distance between the EU's institutions and citizens, with negative repercussions on trust in the European project.

In light of the above:

1. Will the Commission push forward a structured and coordinated plan to cut red tape in EU procedures, aimed at significantly reducing the administrative burden for citizens, businesses and local entities, particularly in accessing EU funding?
2. Does it envisage introducing common tools for simplifying and digitalising procedures, in order to ensure precise timeframes, greater transparency and uniform application for EU policies in all Member States?

Submitted: 11.2.2026

**Answer given by Mr Dombrovskis on behalf of the European Commission
(8 May 2026)**

The Commission put forward a plan to simplify EU laws and cut burdens, laid out in the communication 'A simpler and Faster Europe' ⁽¹⁾, to reduce burdens by at least 25% for companies and 35% for small and medium-sized enterprises, which means cutting administrative costs by EUR 37.5 billion by the end of the mandate.

In 2025, the Commission adopted ten omnibus proposals and other simplification initiatives, bringing EUR 15 billion annual administrative savings.

Furthermore, the President of the Commission announced a regulatory deep house cleaning of the *acquis* to eliminate outdated provisions and overlaps and foster regulatory consolidation. :

To ensure more uniform application of EU policies, the Commission will also address gold-plating at national level, which can result in additional barriers and costs.

This Action Plan was presented on 28 April 2026 as part of the communication on a 'Simpler Clearer and Better Enforced EU Rulebook' ⁽²⁾.

To support these efforts, the Commission has introduced new consultation tools to reach out to stakeholders, seeking their views on what is working and what could be improved.

Members of the College have held a total of 57 Implementation Dialogues so far ⁽³⁾, engaging over 1 100 diverse stakeholders. Insights from the implementation dialogues have contributed to several omnibus and simplification proposals.

Moreover, the next multiannual financial framework will have a simpler architecture, with fewer programmes and common rules across programmes.

Advisory and business support services will be streamlined. More than 30 online portals with information about the budget will be merged into one user-friendly entry point.

⁽¹⁾ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions, A simpler and faster Europe: Communication on implementation and simplification, COM(2025) 47 final.

⁽²⁾ COM(2026)380 final https://commission.europa.eu/publications/simpler-clearer-and-better-enforced-eu-rulebook_en.

⁽³⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/law/law-making-process/better-regulation/simplification-and-implementation/implementation-dialogues-0_en.

The Commission will reuse existing data and embed ‘digital by default’ and ‘once-only’ principles to ease reporting and compliance costs.
